

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 034751 TOSEC 020039
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY D:DLAMB:CM
APPROVED BY D- WARREN CHRISTOPHER
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 034751 TOSEC 020039

NODIS
CHEROKEE:FOR SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING REPORT

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FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TUESDAY'S EVENING REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT:

1. LETTER TO BREZHNEV: AT 4:30 P.M., TODAY I DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN YOUR LETTER TO BREZHNEV. HE READ IT CAREFULLY IN MY PRESENCE AND COMMENTED, "IT IS A GOOD LETTER, COVERING MANY, MANY SUBJECTS". HE SAID HIS ONLY QUESTION RELATED TO THE TIMING FOR HANDLING THE CRUISE MISSILE AND BACKFIRE ISSUES IF NOT COVERED IN SALT II. I REFERRED HIM TO THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR LETTER INDICATING THAT THOSE ISSUES COULD BE CONSIDERED "IMMEDIATELY IN FOLLOW-UP NEGOTIATIONS". DOBRYNIN PRESSED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF THOSE ISSUES, SAYING THEY SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR "SALT II AND A HALF" OR SALT III. HIS ONLY OTHER COMMENT OF SUBSTANCE WAS THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 034751 TOSEC 020039

1977 WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT YEAR FOR PROGRESS ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS AND HE REFERRED TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR ROLES AS CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. KIDNAPPING OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN COLOMBIA: A 30 YEAR OLD PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, RICHARD CHARLES STARR, WAS KIDNAPPED YESTERDAY BY LEFTIST GUERRILLAS IN A RURAL AREA

OF COLOMBIA. THE KIDNAPPING TOOK PLACE DURING AN ARMED ATTACK BY A BAND OF GUERRILLAS ON A POLICE OUTPOST, AND THUS IT IS UNLIKELY STARR'S KIDNAPPING WAS PLANNED IN ADVANCE.

NO COMMUNICATION OF ANY SORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE KIDNAPPERS. THEY ARE KNOWN TO BE MEMBERS OF FARC, A COMMUNIST GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN COLOMBIA FOR MORE THAN A DECADE. THE COLOMBIAN ARMY IS SEARCHING FOR STARR.

OUR AMBASSADOR IN BOGOTA, PHILLIP V. SANCHEZ, HAS CONVEYED OUR CONCERN TO THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS CENTER (WITH PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATION) TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH STARR'S FAMILY.

3. FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR DEAL: I MET BRIEFLY WITH BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO TODAY TO CONFIRM THAT WE WILL MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVERIA ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES IN BRASILIA ON MARCH 1-2. PINHEIRO WAS INSTRUCTED TO AVOID DISCUSSING ANY SUBSTANTIVE POINTS. I EMPHASIZED YOUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY FURTHER SPREAD OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, AND STRESSED THAT WE ARE SEEKING AN INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION IN WHICH BRAZIL CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. ATTACHED, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR EARLIER REQUEST, IS AN ASSESSMENT OF THE BRAZILIAN POSITION.(NOTE NOT TRANSMITTED).

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SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 034751 TOSEC 020039

4. AMBASSADORIAL BOARD: YOUR ADVISORY BOARD ON AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS WILL HOLD ITS SECOND MEETING TOMORROW. EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD HAS BEEN GIVEN A COMPLETE LIST OF THE MORE THAN 400 PERSONS RECOMMENDED FOR AMBASSADORIAL POSTS. THIS LIST HAS BEEN COMPUTERIZED AND THE NAMES HAVE BEEN SORTED IN VARIOUS WAYS TO INDICATE LANGUAGE ABILITY, PREFERENCE, AND OTHER FACTORS. FOR EACH OF THE 20 POSTS BEING CONSIDERED ON A PRIORITY BASIS, THE BOARD WILL HAVE BEFORE IT SEVERAL RECOMMENDED NON-CAREER NAMES (USUALLY FIVE OR MORE) AS WELL AS TWO RECOMMENDED CAREER OFFICERS.

POSTSCRIPT TO SECRETARY. NO FURTHER WORD ON THE SENSITIVE INDIA MATTER WE DISCUSSED ON AFTERNOON OF YOUR DEPARTURE. CHRISTOPHER.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, TOSEC, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 02/16/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE034751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLAMB:CM
Enclosure: TOSEC 20039
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840072-1476, N770001-0553
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770235/aaaabfez.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 94e4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3305085
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVENING REPORT
TAGS: OVIP, OGEN, PPDC, PARM, TECH, GE, BR, CO, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/94e4a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009